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Summary record of the 48th meeting (Chamber B)
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 19 July 2018, at 9 a.m.

President: Mr. Matjila (Vice-President) ..... (South Africa)
later: Mr. Pecsteen de Buytswerve (Vice-President) ..... (Belgium)

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In the absence of Ms. Chatardova (Czechia), Mr. Matjila (South Africa), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 9.15 a.m.

Agenda item 5: High-level segment (*continued*) (E/2018/61)

(a) Ministerial meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (*continued*) (E/2018/64)

General debate (continued)

1. **The President** invited the ministerial meeting to resume its general debate on the theme "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies".

2. **Mr. Charles** (Jamaica), Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, said that the alignment between his country's national development plan, Vision 2030 Jamaica, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development had produced a strong and consistent sense of national ownership and commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, allowing synergies to be utilized to create a common, systematic and integrated framework for the monitoring and implementation of national development policies and programmes. In terms of progress, Jamaica had achieved a relatively high human development ranking, improved its performance in key indicators of human capital formation and attained a measure of macroeconomic stability. Under its medium-term socioeconomic policy framework for 2018–2021, Jamaica would pursue several critical policies to foster sustainable development, including approaches for climate proofing its development and continued efforts to strengthen the sustainable management of its terrestrial and marine environments.

3. However, Jamaica continued to face challenges caused by vulnerabilities aggravated by the negative impact of climate change and high levels of debt, which limited the extent to which his Government could implement policies geared towards achieving fast and sustained socioeconomic progress. Although the Goals must ultimately be implemented at the national level, success would require partnerships to be forged that spanned the national, regional and multilateral levels and involved public, private and civil society sectors. Capacity-building was also central to his Government's efforts to implement well-designed cross-cutting strategies for achieving sustainable development. As the mobilization of scaled-up financing was essential for achieving the Goals, Jamaica had partnered with Canada to spearhead the establishment of the Group of Friends of Sustainable Development Goal Finance as a platform for direct engagement with the private sector.

4. **Mr. Barahona** (Honduras), Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, said that Tegucigalpa, which had the highest concentration of urban poverty in Honduras, served as an example of a Latin American city in transition to sustainability. The city's topography, unplanned growth and the absence of urban development policies had served as catalysts for the Tegucigalpa and Comayagüela Action Plan, the aim of which was to improve slums and ensure that all people had access to housing and basic, affordable services. Those policies, along with the city's priorities of sanitation and drainage, urban inequality, security, water, reduction of vulnerability to disasters, employment, land use and transport were in line with the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities.

5. With regard to Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation, the availability of water and sanitation services in Honduras had significantly improved over recent decades. However, his Government's principal aim was to continue improving water quality and availability, particularly in rural areas. It had taken a multidimensional and participatory approach to that challenge by holding interinstitutional and intersectoral workshops to ensure that the achievement of Goal 6 was a shared responsibility, and it had focused efforts on outreach to the private and municipal sectors in order to ensure that the Goal was taken into account in local and spatial planning and when establishing partnerships. Water and sanitation were among the 37 national priorities of the Government's strategic plan for 2018–2022. The national water plan and the water, forest and land master plan served to ensure the necessary long-term interinstitutional coordination in addressing those issues. His Government continued to work closely with the United Nations under its "Delivering as One" initiative to implement the Honduran 2030 National Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals, based on three fundamental criteria: that the Goal in question was relevant for the country, that it was related to the planning system and that the country had the resources to achieve it.

6. **Ms. Schwarzelühr-Sutter** (Germany), Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, said that despite the progress already made, the international community was not on track to meet the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The high-level political forum on sustainable development to be held under the auspices of the General Assembly in September 2019 would

accelerate the political momentum and provide high-level political guidance for further implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which, together with the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other international agreements, provided a vehicle for multilateral cooperation and action. The transition to sustainable development models could act as a catalyst for the modernization of the economy, with positive impacts for competitiveness, the job market, social inclusion, participation and political stability. At the same time, such a transition heralded major change for many economic sectors.

7. Her Government had developed the German Sustainable Development Strategy to serve as its framework for achieving the Goals. It was regularly updating that Strategy, which was aligned with the 2030 Agenda, and continued to conduct consultations with stakeholders. Her Government was also increasingly taking the global impact of its domestic actions into account. The inclusive and participatory nature of the 2030 Agenda, along with a human-rights based approach addressing vulnerable and marginalized groups, should underpin all endeavours to ensure that no one was left behind. Efforts to shape globalization in a sustainable manner that respected the environment, focused on human well-being and invested in the future must be redoubled.

8. **Ms. El Ouafi** (Morocco), Secretary of State to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development, said that her Government had engaged in collective mobilization efforts at the national and international levels, drawing inspiration from the 2030 Agenda. The 2011 Constitution stated that sustainable development was a right for all citizens and her Government had adopted a national strategy, following broad consultation, to achieve sustainable development by 2030. That strategy was based on several priorities, which included strengthening sustainable development management, successfully moving towards a green economy, improving the management and value of natural resources, supporting the preservation of biological diversity, accelerating the implementation of national policies to mitigate climate change, reducing social inequality and promoting a culture of sustainable development.

9. To accelerate implementation of the national strategy, her Government had developed 21 sectoral plans for sustainable development, and a plan specific to their implementation in the field of sustainable development. It had also put in place a governance framework consisting of two high-level committees mandated to closely track progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Several programmes had been implemented to apply the national strategy, including in the areas of water purification, domestic waste management, waste conversion, air quality and climate.

10. Her Government was working to ensure that national efforts were in line with the Goals. For example, it planned to decrease greenhouse gas emissions by 42 per cent and to increase the percentage of renewable sources in its energy mix to 52 per cent by 2030. In addition, her Government had recently begun construction of the Nur Ouarzazate 4 solar power plant, which would be the largest in the world upon completion.

11. Alongside its efforts to achieve sustainable development, Morocco had also focused heavily on mobilizing women and youth. Convinced that equality and equal opportunity for both sexes was a basic human right, it was a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The desire for equality was also reflected in the 2011 Constitution and in the efforts to mainstream gender in various governmental strategies, plans and programmes.

12. **Mr. Hadas** (Israel), Special Envoy for Sustainability and Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reaffirming his Government's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, said that Israel was well known for innovation in various fields. Such innovation, together with the right policy framework, could provide comprehensive solutions to the issues at hand. Israel had shown its ability to successfully implement technological innovations, including in the area of water management. Once a limiting factor for economic development, water was now an abundant resource in Israel. In that regard, desalination had been a key tool, but other factors needed to be addressed for Israel to achieve Goal 6. Another challenge that Israel currently faced was that of increasing its renewable energy sources. Although access to energy was high, Israel had limited land resources and a fast-growing urban population, as a result of which the land available for renewable energy production was scarce and hotly contested.

13. Israel had shown its willingness to share its experience and expertise through international cooperation, including on water management. Having solved its water problems through desalination and water recycling, Israel could easily share that knowledge with neighbouring countries and around the world. The Israeli Cabinet had recently decided to accelerate investment in the developing world and would encourage the involvement of the Israeli private

sector in development activities in partner countries. Through pursuing such international partnerships and fostering global solidarity, the Sustainable Development Goals could be achieved.

14. **Mr. Maiga** (Mali), Permanent Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that different technical departments, the National Assembly, regional governments, civil society, the private sector, persons with disabilities and other stakeholders had all been involved in preparing the voluntary national review that had been presented during the high-level political forum.

15. Given its financial and socioeconomic constraints, Mali faced massive challenges in effectively implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. Even so, the Malian authorities had always aided vulnerable populations and the Government was determined to stabilize regions beset by terrorist groups. The implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali emanating from the Algiers process, and the upcoming elections, were contributing to the harmonious development and stability of Mali.

16. Government-backed programmes and initiatives, with community participation, strengthened the fabric of society, reducing inequalities in the provision of basic social services and lowering the risk of food insecurity, thereby illustrating the efforts of Mali to ensure that no one was left behind. Significant progress had been made in a number of areas, including road infrastructure, through extensive paving projects in the interior of the country, and agriculture, to which 15 per cent of the national budget was allocated.

17. Several social housing programmes had been established for low-income households, while the "Jigisemejiri" Safety Nets Project, supported by the World Bank Group, provided cash transfers to poor households facing food insecurity. Over 60,000 households had benefited from such transfers by 30 September 2016 and it was hoped that that number would rise to over 91,000 by the end of 2019.

18. **Ms. Belskaya** (Belarus), Head of Directorate-General for Multilateral Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that the high-level political forum was an important intergovernmental mechanism for exchanging information and discussing pressing issues related to the Sustainable Development Goals. The National Council for Sustainable Development provided a platform for intersectoral exchange in that regard. A great deal had already been achieved and the National Coordinator for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals had presented the voluntary national review of Belarus to the forum in 2017.

19. A parliamentary working group for the Sustainable Development Goals oversaw the creation of favourable conditions to achieve the Goals at the legislative level. Accordingly, sustainable principles had recently been introduced into legislation related to public-private partnerships, the drinking water supply, food safety and the production and handling of organic products. Furthermore, open parliamentary hearings had been held on the importance of partnerships between the different branches of Government for the achievement of the Goals, a special government meeting had recently been held on the Goals and the Cabinet had adopted key decisions on the integration of sustainable development indicators in both sectoral and regional economic, environmental and social programmes.

20. A national list of Sustainable Development Goal indicators would be approved in 2018 and a national platform would be operationalized to ensure data collection for the achievement of the Goals. Belarus intended to increase awareness about sustainability, particularly among children and young people, and regional events would be held to promote economic, social and environmental sustainability.

21. International expert assistance was a valuable compliment to national efforts. In that regard, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Population Fund had deployed a mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support strategy mission to Belarus in November 2017. Its recommendations had been incorporated into the national road map for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

22. A regional forum on the Goals held in Minsk in February 2018 had included more than 30 countries and had been attended by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe. Participants at the forum had supported the initiative of Belarus to establish a partnership network of national coordinators for the Goals. One of the main recommendations from the forum was the need for the United Nations to provide coordinated support to middle-income countries. In that context, her Government attached great importance to the increasing contribution of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to the industrial development of middle-income countries in such areas as clean energy production, energy efficiency and support for small and medium-sized enterprises. In September 2018 a UNIDO workshop would be held in Minsk to devise a support strategy for middle-income countries. That event should lead to the development of a long-term comprehensive strategy for the United Nations with respect to middle-income countries.

23. **Mr. Mupamhanga** (Zimbabwe), Deputy Chief Secretary to the Office of the President and Cabinet, said that his Government aimed to make Zimbabwe a middle-income country by 2030, mirroring the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. With continued support from the international community, the implementation of the country's development plan would usher in a new era of prosperity and contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

24. Zimbabwe continued to strengthen existing programmes and combine them with new initiatives to build a sustainable and resilient society. For example, by reinforcing a scheme to provide farming inputs support, his Government had significantly increased the national strategic grain reserve and had made considerable progress towards food self-sufficiency. With regard to Goal 6, a national programme had been implemented to rehabilitate and repair non-functional water points. Solar-powered piped water schemes had also been launched to provide access to drinking water.

25. Access to improved sanitation remained a challenge both in rural and urban areas. Open defecation, which stood at 34 per cent nationally, had been eliminated in 3,800 villages during the review period.

26. Greater focus was being placed on increasing the availability of renewable energy to attain self-sufficiency and, ultimately, grow the economy. The rural electrification projects currently under way would also be positively affected. His Government was taking steps to increase electricity generation by setting up new hydroelectric power stations and by stepping up existing production.

27. To address the resource gap by attracting investment, his Government had initiated a number of reforms, including steps to improve the ease of doing business and the establishment of a one-stop investment centre. Measures had also been taken to repatriate illegally externalized resources; such efforts were supported by the anti-corruption drive under way and would benefit immensely from increased international collaboration.

28. **Mr. de Vaujany** (France), Director General for Global Affairs, Culture, Education and International Development, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, said that France had been one of the first 22 countries to present a voluntary national review at the high-level political forum and that it viewed the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement as two sides of the same coin. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the international community must undertake robust and effective multilateral efforts to respond to collective governance challenges. In that regard, the One Planet Summit, held in Paris on 12 December 2017, constituted a turning point in terms of the commitments made by Heads of State, development banks and business leaders to safeguard the future of the planet.

29. All countries should promote the conservation of global diversity. France had recently implemented new structural policies in that regard, including a plan to make the protection of biodiversity a national priority. It was hoped that the plan would also contribute towards the adoption of a new ambitious international framework for the protection of biodiversity.

30. A plan to irreversibly implement the Paris Agreement had been adopted by his Government in July 2017. More recently, it had adopted a road map for the circular economy and would shortly adopt a national policy to combat deforestation in order to accelerate the achievement of Goal 12 on responsible consumption. France was also committed to increasing official development assistance (ODA) levels to 0.55 per cent of its gross national income by 2022. A road map to implement the Sustainable Development Goals would be presented during the next voluntary national review cycle in July 2019.

31. **Mr. Lawrence** (United States of America), Adviser, Permanent Mission of the United States to the United Nations, said that business as usual was no longer an acceptable way to address the world's most pressing development challenges. Nations must collectively adjust their approaches to the changing development landscape. The United Nations system must also change in order to demonstrate its added value to sustainable development and to fully support the vision of the 2030 Agenda.

32. The expansion of technology in the developing world was altering the reality of what was now possible. Traditional ODA was increasingly being reinforced by private sector engagement, domestic resource mobilization, financial flows and enhanced commerce and investment, all of which promised to increase self-reliance in developing countries.

33. However, the most monumental change was perhaps the enhanced relationship between the private and public sectors. Public-private partnerships across the United States were empowering residents and were crucial to addressing many of the challenges facing its communities. Examples of such initiatives included the investment of private equity in the development of affordable rental housing for low-income households, support for the development of next generation technologies by small businesses and funding for early-stage research for development in such areas as health,

agriculture and energy. New technologies were being used to predict droughts and to manage land more sustainably so as to ensure food security and avoid potential conflicts. Those new approaches to development could be leveraged to expand access to safe drinking water, improve sanitation, combat illegal wildlife trafficking and conserve national wetlands and forests.

34. As part of its broader reform efforts the United Nations system must fully recognize and embrace those changes, including by leveraging domestic resources and private flows, encouraging inputs from the private sector, adapting and streamlining its internal operational approaches and management, and reflecting on the most effective and efficient ways to generate positive change and development progress. Reform of the United Nations system must be inclusive and welcome views, inputs and leadership from all stakeholders. To best serve those most in need, United Nations agencies should move away from low-priority activities and instead focus on their core mandates and comparative advantages.

35. **Mr. La Camera** (Italy), Director-General, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, said that a universal and integrated approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was only possible with innovative, cross-sectoral and multidimensional governance based on the principles of policy coordination and cohesion, inclusiveness and accountability. His Government was working to implement the national strategy for sustainable development, which had been adopted in 2017. A consultative forum had been established to share values, methods and practices with local governments, with a view to supporting the development of local implementation strategies. An intergovernmental technical committee had been created to develop indicators, with the help of the national statistical system, and a permanent civil society forum would be launched in 2018. Given that the financial sector would play a crucial role in the transition to sustainable development, Italy supported the efforts of the Secretary-General to develop a United Nations strategy for sustainable finance.

36. Priority must also be given to combating climate change. Italy was on track to achieve the 2020 targets under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and stressed the urgent need to adopt the Paris Agreement rule book at the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Katowice, Poland, in December 2018. Furthermore, the Government had mainstreamed climate in international development cooperation, prioritizing areas most impacted by climate change, including small islands in the Pacific, the Caribbean, Africa and the Indian Ocean, as well as countries on the African continent. In partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Italy had created a centre to focus on climate and sustainable development in Africa, in line with the recommendations made under its presidency of the Group of Seven in 2017, with the aim of meeting the financing demands of beneficiary countries. In addition, the Government supported the mandate of the Special Advisor to the Secretary-General for the Sahel and the prefeasibility study of the Transaqua Project to replenish Lake Chad.

37. Italy had presented its voluntary national review in 2017 and would continue to share its challenges, efforts and achievements during the high-level political forum, which provided an opportunity to strengthen political momentum, share experiences and embrace further action from all actors in a collective effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and targets.

38. *Mr. Pecsteen de Buytswerve (Belgium), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

39. **Mr. Beladhane** (Algeria), Ambassador and Chair of the inter-sectional organ of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that the development policy of Algeria prioritized building a stable, prosperous, developed and resilient society. His country had a universal social security system based on the principles of solidarity and fair distribution, had achieved most of the Millennium Development Goals and had nearly eradicated extreme poverty. In 2016, his Government had adopted a new economic growth model that aimed to diversify and transform the economy by reviving and consolidating economic growth, focusing on employment, decent housing, health and education. The growth model also prioritized water and environmental resources. Under the Constitution, the right to water was recognized as a fundamental human right. Significant investments had been made to improve the water sector, including the construction of 76 dams, 13 desalination units and 176 water treatment plants. As a result, 98 per cent of the population had access to drinking water and 95 per cent had access to the waste management system.

40. A sustainable urban development strategy had also been implemented. The Government had adapted the relevant legal framework, urban policy and requirements concerning the environment and renewable energy in order to improve living conditions in urban areas. At the same time, the Government was focusing on rural development to improve the quality of life in rural areas. Since 2000, 3.6 million housing units

had been built, and relocation and rehabilitation schemes had gradually eradicated precarious housing situations. Cities should integrate adaptation and resilience measures into future strategies to manage risks and natural disasters. With regard to green energy, his Government was launching a project to develop renewable energy and promote energy efficiency.

41. Each country was primarily responsible for its own economic and social progress. Nevertheless, in strengthening their national development efforts, States must be able to rely on an international economic environment that was favourable to development and provided adequate financial means. It was therefore necessary to give effect to the international partnership called for in the 2030 Agenda, which should be balanced, support developing countries and combat illicit financial flows. When States complied with their commitments to provide humanitarian assistance, they played an important role in eradicating poverty, strengthening the capacities of the poorest countries and reducing infrastructure deficits. Algeria would continue to provide such assistance through South-South and triangular cooperation.

42. **Ms. Đurišić** (Montenegro), Permanent Representative of Montenegro to the United Nations, said that the lack of sustainable development and peace in some areas threatened the entire world, as demonstrated by the refugee and migration crises, terrorism and violent extremism. The international community must therefore urgently intensify efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

43. Sustainable development was enshrined in the Constitution, and her Government had adapted the priorities of the 2030 Agenda to its corresponding national strategy and had presented its voluntary national review in 2016. In partnership with the United Nations country team, the Government had begun to explore the interlinkages between the 2030 Agenda and the European Union accession process; 65 per cent of the Goal targets had a strong link to the negotiating chapters. The Government would work with development partners to meet the remaining targets and had employed the mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support strategy to identify areas where the implementation of the 2030 Agenda could be stepped up. It had invited representatives of European Union negotiating teams from neighbouring countries to share their expertise and experience. Montenegro was strongly in favour of sharing best practices, developing research capacity and transferring technology and expertise.

44. Much work remained to be done to ensure that no one was left behind. Governments, the private sector and civil society must work together, as consolidated strategic partnerships were vital to ensuring that all countries were able to achieve the Goals.

45. **Mr. Locsin**, Jr. (Philippines), Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations, said that the final agreed text of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was a major step forward in ensuring that migrants were not left behind. The Compact recognized that human rights and sustainable development were not mutually exclusive and protected and promoted the rights and welfare of migrants, regardless of migration status. Henceforth no one could hide behind political rhetoric to avoid their responsibility to treat everyone with decency, which simply required the willingness to do so.

46. The Sustainable Development Goals could not be achieved at the cost of nature: the Earth must also be protected. The Philippines was located in the Pacific Ring of Fire and in the path of increasingly intense typhoons. As a result, disaster risk reduction was entrenched in national programmes. His Government therefore welcomed the adoption of Economic and Social Council resolution 2018/14, entitled "Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters".

47. Timely, comprehensive and disaggregated data must be urgently developed to better understand the situation of all citizens, particularly the poorest and most marginalized, with a view to developing policies and programmes that were tailored to their needs and enhanced their capacities. His Government was committed to improving the quality and quantity of disaggregated data to monitor progress towards the Goals and supported the recent Inclusive Data Charter.

48. **Ms. Hasanova** (Azerbaijan), Deputy Minister of Economy, said that her country attached great importance to global partnerships. With support from the United Nations and other international development partners, her Government had achieved significant progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, eliminating extreme poverty, reducing absolute poverty and unemployment and increasing gross domestic product and income. Azerbaijan had presented its voluntary national review in 2017, which had helped to intensify national efforts to promote sustainability as a driver of prosperity and development.

49. In order to implement the 2030 Agenda, there must be ownership and a high-level commitment. In that connection, a national coordination council on sustainable development had been established under the

leadership of the Deputy Prime Minister and had taken significant steps towards adapting the Sustainable Development Goals to the national context. However, government commitments must be complemented by wide public participation. In partnership with the United Nations country office, her Government had developed an advocacy campaign strategy and had organized events with stakeholders, including members of parliament, civil society, children, youth, women and the private sector. Given that global partnership and information sharing were essential to achieving the Goals, Azerbaijan would host an international high-level forum on sustainable development in Baku in 2018, bringing together national representatives, United Nations officials, academia and international experts to discuss challenges and share best practices and lessons learned in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. She invited all participants to attend the forum and share their development experiences.

50. **Mr. Rudiyanto** (Indonesia), Deputy Minister for Maritime and Natural Resources, National Development Planning Agency, said that a presidential decree on the Sustainable Development Goals had been issued in 2017, and over 230 civil society organizations had participated in developing the national action plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, launched in June 2018. The plan had become an integrated planning document that incorporated both government and non-governmental programmes. Monitoring and evaluation would be a collaborative effort, with civil society organizations conducting independent evaluations. However, the national annual accountability report would be a consolidated document.

51. The growing number of countries participating in the voluntary national reviews was proof that the high-level political forum could fulfil its role as the global follow-up and review mechanism for the Goals. Through that process, it must be possible to identify implementation gaps and trigger effective actions. The United Nations system should be proactive in seeking solution-oriented actions to address those gaps and provide the necessary assistance to developing countries in accordance with their needs and priorities. Attaining the Goals and targets would require strong political commitment, robust actions, effective global partnership and genuine multi-stakeholder cooperation.

52. **Mr. Marcondes de Carvalho** (Brazil), Undersecretary General for the Environment, Energy, Science and Technology of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that the high-level political forum had provided participants with an opportunity to listen, share experiences and exchange best practices. Brazil had presented its first voluntary national review in 2017. The National Commission for the Sustainable Development Goals had equal representation from government and non-governmental agencies and served as the main governance mechanism for fostering dialogue, promoting engagement and integrating initiatives carried out by civil society, the private sector and government at all levels. The biannual action plan, which outlined objectives, expected results, deadlines and responsibilities, allowed for greater transparency and accountability. An open-ended, multi-stakeholder working group on partnerships and implementation had been created, and two additional working groups would be established to examine the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda and ensure coherence between the Goals and public policies. The National Commission was also focused on fostering communication and engagement and had created the Sustainable Development Goals Brazil Award to help establish a database of good practices.

53. The international community must endeavour to create an international environment conducive to promoting development. His Government valued multilateralism, promoted ownership of the 2030 Agenda, encouraged the engagement of all stakeholders and endeavoured to ensure that national ambitions were matched by decisive action.

54. **Mr. Mousavi** (Islamic Republic of Iran), Director-General for International Environmental and Sustainable Development Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that, despite the scarcity of water, 99 per cent of the urban population and 93 per cent of the rural population had access to safe drinking water, and 100 per cent of the population had access to sanitation services. With regard to sustainable and modern energy, national energy policies focused on increasing capacity, using gas-powered and combined-cycle power plants, utilizing renewable energy, improving network resilience and respecting environmental concerns and climate commitments. In addition, his Government had implemented a comprehensive national master plan on productivity.

55. In connection to Sustainable Development Goal 15 on biodiversity, chronic drought and unsustainable land and water management had caused sand and dust storms to become more frequent and severe, affecting all aspects of life in most of western Iran. Urgent action was required at the local, regional and international levels. The General Assembly had adopted three resolutions to draw attention to the issue, and a high-level interactive dialogue on sand and dust storms had been convened in July 2018 to address that challenge in a more concerted manner.

56. With regard to Goal 17 on partnership, success was being hindered by the recent increase in attempts to undermine essential multilateral instruments, including the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, broadly exercised unilateralism threatened to reverse much of the development progress made in recent decades. Despite those constraints, Iran was prepared to scale up efforts to build a more prosperous and sustainable future for its people and contribute to achieving a world free of poverty, hunger, disease and ecological imbalance.

57. **Mr. Muia** (Kenya), Principal Secretary at the Ministry of National Treasury and Planning, said that universal access to clean and renewable energy continued to be a national priority. Generating capacity had increased by 32 per cent, from 2013 to 2017, and was expected to double by 2022. Over three quarters of the country's energy came from renewable sources. Kenya had completed one of the largest wind power projects in Africa and was the leading producer of geothermal energy on the continent, ranked eighth in the world. His Government also promoted the use of energy-efficient cookstoves and lightbulbs. To improve access in rural areas, it had adopted innovative interventions, including pay-as-you-go systems, off-grid options and microcredit supported by mobile money services. Nevertheless, affordability remained a challenge.

58. The provision of housing for all was anchored in the Constitution and was one of the four key development priorities for the period from 2018 to 2022, along with universal health care, food and nutrition security and industrialization. His Government had committed to providing 400,000 affordable houses and 100,000 social housing units in the next five years, in partnership with subnational governments, the private sector, cooperatives and the financial sector. In addition, a programme had been established to upgrade slums and improve the livelihoods of slum dwellers. The Government had also developed a national spatial plan for 2015–2045, a land-use policy to guide sustainable urban development and was conducting research on appropriate building materials and technologies to lower the cost of housing.

59. The Government had developed frameworks to implement its green economic strategy, had banned plastics and disposed of waste in landfills. It sought to achieve 10 per cent forest cover by 2022, had intensified efforts to rehabilitate and protect the five major water towers and supported the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management. However, more international cooperation was needed to boost water efficiency and treatment technologies.

60. **Mr. Mansour** (Observer for the State of Palestine), Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations, said that the State of Palestine had submitted its voluntary national review and had complied with all relevant guidelines and instructions, which was a credit to its people living under occupation. The State of Palestine faced mounting challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The continued Israeli occupation and the systematic, widespread abuses and breaches of international law greatly impeded the ability to fulfil obligations under international instruments, particularly with respect to the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, cuts in contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East threatened the very existence of that agency and undermined operations to provide services to Palestinian refugees, who risked further poverty, unemployment, social marginalization and exclusion as a result.

61. Despite those challenges, his Government would continue to focus on implementing the 2030 Agenda through the national policy agenda for 2017–2022, which had incorporated a number of targets and indicators. However, the ability of the Government to meet those targets was impeded by the national economic and financial situation, the inability to access and exploit natural resources and the steep decline in ODA. Furthermore, the Government could not fulfil its pledge to leave no one behind without enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination, ending the long-term Israeli military occupation and establishing a fully independent and sovereign State within the territory with East Jerusalem as its capital. The international community must fulfil its duties and responsibilities in that connection.

62. **Ms. Bird** (Australia), Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations, said that her Government had published a white paper on foreign policy in 2017, which would guide its international engagement over the next decade. The 2030 Agenda was central to national efforts to promote sustainable development and reflected issues that Australians highly valued, including a clean and safe environment, gender equality, inclusive economies and respect for indigenous cultures and heritage. As a member of the Human Rights Council, Australia was committed to promoting the rights of all people, including women and girls, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples, and to ensuring that no one was left behind.

63. Australia had presented its voluntary national review, which reflected the collective efforts of governments, businesses, civil society, youth and other stakeholders. It highlighted achievements that included

the stewardship of the Great Barrier Reef, improvements to the liveability of cities and support for persons with disabilities through the national disability insurance scheme. The review had also outlined national contributions to building stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and around the world. Her Government was committed to delivering effective development assistance at record levels in the Pacific region and to working closely with partners to strengthen economic resilience and improve health, education, action on climate change and disasters, governance and gender equality.

64. Financing from all sources was required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The review had highlighted the contributions of the public and private sectors in Australia and the ways in which its overseas aid was leveraging new resources and promoting aid for trade in order to drive inclusive growth and reduce poverty. Australia was also helping to reduce remittance costs and supporting domestic resource mobilization, including through its membership in the Addis Tax Initiative.

65. **Mr. Hawke** (New Zealand), Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations, said that the convergence of economic, social and environmental issues meant that States must innovate and form new partnerships across borders. His Government was committed to a transformative sustainable development agenda that directly reflected the Sustainable Development Goals. For example, it had introduced legislation to reduce child poverty to 5 per cent in 10 years, had introduced a families package and had increased the minimum wage in order to boost the incomes of low- and middle-income families. The Government had also opened consultations on legislation to commit to zero carbon emissions by 2050. Consultations were also being held on a trade agenda, which would ensure that trade policy benefited all citizens and contributed to addressing global and regional issues. In addition, the Government was re-evaluating its contributions to the sustainable development of Pacific countries, which included a substantial increase in its aid budget.

66. Two systemic tools for sustainable development were also being developed. The living standards framework would allow the Government to evaluate the impact of policy and resource decisions on current and future overall well-being, moving beyond economic measures to consider the health and sustainability of natural, human, social, financial and physical capital. The framework would inform the first national well-being budget, to be created in 2019. The second tool was a statistical framework of indicators that would track the well-being of New Zealanders across economic, social, environmental and transboundary dimensions and would provide the data for the first voluntary national report, to be presented in 2019.

67. **Mr. Phansourivong** (Lao People's Democratic Republic), Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations, said that leaving no one behind required more immediate and concerted efforts from all stakeholders at every level to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In that connection, Sustainable Development Goal 17 was of particular importance and the mobilization of resources was also critical. Given that least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States continued to face unique challenges and difficulties, they would not have adequate resources to implement the 2030 Agenda. All relevant stakeholders, including development partners, United Nations agencies, the private sector and civil society must work together to support those countries in achieving the Goals, as reflected in national development plans.

68. His delegation supported the reform of the United Nations development system and expressed concern over the continued decline in ODA and core resources. He therefore called on development partners to provide adequate resources in a predictable and sustainable manner so that agencies could effectively carry out their mandates.

69. His Government had established a national steering committee to ensure the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and had been working closely with the United Nations country team and other partners to incorporate the Goals into the national development plan. It had also adopted an additional goal on unexploded ordnances to improve the quality of life in rural areas. Approximately 60 per cent of the Goal indicators had been incorporated in the current plan, and the remaining indicators would be integrated in the future.

70. **Mr. Skoknic Tapia** (Chile), Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations, said that Chile had presented its voluntary national review in July 2017, marking the first assessment of its performance in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals. One year later, Chile had further advanced, as indicated in the SDG Index and Dashboards Report 2018 which ranked it among the leading countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and within the top 40 countries worldwide. Given their ambitious and transformative nature, it would be impossible to accomplish the Goals if the 2030 Agenda were not approached as a State

policy which transcended different Governments. Chile had taken important steps in that direction. In addition to the four areas of focus identified in the initial diagnostic report for 2016 and 2017, a fifth area included in 2018 involved reaching five national agreements on the issues of children, health, public safety, indigenous peoples and overcoming poverty.

71. Notwithstanding the integrated and indivisible nature of the 2030 Agenda, his Government had established a number of specific priorities for the coming year. For Goal 6, it was necessary to address desertification, the impact of irrigation projects, the granting of water rights and large investment projects. In that regard, several plans relating to water resources had been developed. For Goal 7, an energy road map for 2018–2022 had been developed to strengthen a shared vision of development focused on the achievement of strategic objectives. Under Goal 11, regional and local decontamination plans, consisting of tangible, local measures, had been devised. With respect to Goal 12, the country had taken a historic step forward with its approval of a bill which prohibited all stores nationwide from handing out plastic bags. For Goal 17, the five aforementioned national agreements reflected the concepts of unity, democracy and intersectionality and represented comprehensive policy proposals prepared through consultation with all sectors of society.

72. Goal 5 was a cross-cutting goal of paramount importance. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls would decisively contribute to the achievement of every Goal in the 2030 Agenda. Keeping in mind differences and complementarities, Chile hoped to continue working with Governments and other actors on international and regional review mechanisms to ensure that no one would be left behind.

73. **Mr. Korneliou** (Cyprus), Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations, said that his country had assigned coordination of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals to the Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development, thereby enhancing coherence in governance and results delivery, since that body was also responsible for the implementation of a reform programme based on the European Union's strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

74. With regard to Goal 6, Cyprus was guided by the integrated water resources management paradigm. Efforts to address water challenges included promoting non-conventional water use, such as wastewater reuse, which it aimed to increase significantly by 2027, and desalination. Cyprus had initiated collaboration at the regional level with Greece and Israel and strongly supported the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028. In relation to Goal 7, Cyprus aimed to achieve, by 2020, 13 per cent coverage of its energy needs from renewable energy sources and a major reduction in primary energy consumption through switching from oil to natural gas in electricity generation. With regard to Goal 11, despite good implementation of the related targets, the financial crisis had negatively affected life in historic urban hubs. Cyprus was working to improve citizen participation and mainstream human rights into urban development. At the international level, the country was committed to protecting cultural heritage. As for Goal 12, Cyprus continued to work on implementing its national action plan for the development of the green economy and increasing sustainability in tourism.

75. A major development in relation to Goal 3 was the creation of a national health insurance system which would promote universal health coverage by 2020. Cyprus continued to support target 10.7 on migration and was committed to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which would contribute to increased international cooperation on migration and help improve the lives of migrants worldwide.

76. **Mr. Rai** (Papua New Guinea), Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations, said that for his country the 2030 Agenda was underpinned by the National Vision 2050 road map, the Development Strategic Plan for 2010–2030 and the Strategy for Responsible Sustainable Development.

77. Papua New Guinea prioritized Sustainable Development Goal 6 as a basic human right and a vital component for poverty alleviation and improved living standards. Water sanitation remained an ongoing challenge as a majority of the population primarily lived in rural areas. For Goal 7, the country had adopted the National Energy Policy 2016–2020, which served as a guide for affordable, competitive and reliable energy to meet national development needs at a low cost while protecting the environment. For Goal 11, Papua New Guinea had adopted a national urbanization policy in 2010 to address the management of rural urban migration. That policy required concerted efforts from all stakeholders and assistance from international partners. For Goal 15, reform of the Conservation and Environment Protection Authority would enable the country to improve on environmental and biodiversity loss issues. In relation to Goal 17, the critical importance of global partnerships could not be overstated, and institutional and human capacity-building remained pivotal.

78. In spite of the modest progress made by Papua New Guinea to attain the Sustainable Development Goals, there remained many challenges including limited resources, capacity-building, technical know-how, governance issues and financing for development.

79. **Ms. García Gutiérrez** (Costa Rica), Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations, said that the comprehensive, universal and transformative nature of the Sustainable Development Goals required adaptive and innovative management and public institutions to respond to their multidimensional challenges.

80. From production to consumption, Costa Rica was committed to promoting sustainable lifestyles. Her delegation therefore wished to highlight the outcomes of the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, the aim of which had been to move "towards a pollution-free planet", as a fundamental component of efforts to promote improvements in the public and private sectors and civil society.

81. Regarding access to clean energy, Costa Rica had proposed the ambitious task of abolishing the use of fossil fuels. It was thus exploring the avenues of institutional reform and political support as well as new electric and hydroelectric technologies. Building sustainable societies was still one of the greatest challenges for Costa Rica, owing to its rapid urbanization and its significant vulnerability to climatic elements which limited access to resilient infrastructure. Nevertheless, the country was attempting to transform mobility in urban centres, transitioning from a model based on vehicular traffic to one focused on people, resource efficiency and sound infrastructure.

82. As solving and preventing conflict surrounding hydro resources was key to building international peace, Costa Rica welcomed the results of the 2015 Global High-level Panel on Water and Peace. Access to water was vital to both human and State development. However, for Costa Rica, climate change posed grave challenges owing to droughts, contamination and limited resources to finance resilient public infrastructure. Regarding sustainable production and consumption, the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission was crucial in developing guidelines to establish sustainable norms and practices on food safety. Costa Rica would propose June 7 to the General Assembly as World Food Safety Day in order to raise awareness about the link between food safety and sustainable development.

83. Despite the progress that it had made, Costa Rica suffered from structural gaps. However, those could eventually be overcome by stable and long-term international cooperation and by improved financial access to sustainable development and the exchange of new technologies. The country remained willing to share its experiences and policies through cooperation mechanisms.

84. **Mr. Mero** (United Republic of Tanzania), Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations, said that it was evident that individual countries and regions were making progress in the implementation of some targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. However, there remained challenges, as confirmed by the report of the Secretary-General (E/2018/64).

85. His country's achievements included mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda into its national development plan, the commitment to increase domestic resource mobilization and the development budget, and the holding of awareness workshops on the Sustainable Development Goals. In pursuing pragmatic policies to expedite sustainable development, his Government was making investments in industrialization and critical infrastructure, placing emphasis on breaking down silos to create horizontal policy coherence that respected gender parity and encouraged the involvement of all stakeholders, including academia, research institutions, civil society and the private sector.

86. Another major milestone was the development of a poverty monitoring and evaluation plan to track progress in poverty reduction. The Goal indicators had been made part of the local government monitoring database and hence facilitated the preparation of the Sustainable Development Goals baseline report. Other actions included the mapping of national plans and training on data gap assessment related to the Goals.

87. For countries to become resilient and sustainable, as per the theme of the forum, relevant policies, meaningful interventions and effective governance were vital in facing the multidimensional challenges ahead. The need to enhance cooperation in capacity-building was an important pillar of Goal 17. If the 2030 Agenda was going to be achieved in the remaining 12 years, cooperation between stakeholders would need to be strengthened.

88. **Mr. Duarte Lopes** (Portugal), Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations, said that his country had presented its first voluntary national review in 2017. More than simply a bureaucratic exercise, the review had provided an opportunity for policy analysis and strategic alignment in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals. His Government recognized the inextricable link between eradicating poverty, combating climate change and integrating a

strong human rights dimension that addressed inequalities and focused on gender issues. The Paris Agreement and the conservation and sustainable use of oceans were also integral to the 2030 Agenda.

89. All countries must share responsibility for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation. While the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development served as a guidance tool to finance sustainable development, mobilizing additional financial resources and moving beyond traditional forms of development financing remained key challenges. The international community must therefore pursue new forms of finance from all possible sources and in volumes that far exceeded ODA, which continued to play a vital role, especially in least developed countries. As it recovered from the financial crisis, Portugal had been increasing its ODA and was seeking new funding models. Lastly, Portugal strongly supported the General Assembly resolution 72/279 on the repositioning the United Nations development system, adopted in May 2018.

90. **Ms. Beshkova** (Bulgaria), Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations, said that, while many efforts had been made to implement the 2030 Agenda, the international community must do more with regard to climate change, conflicts, inequality, poverty, hunger, rapid urbanization and environmental degradation. Disaggregated data was paramount to formulating policies, tracking progress and tailoring solutions. The policies of her Government were therefore based on disaggregated data produced by the national statistical institute. The principle of leaving no one behind was of the utmost importance to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Bulgaria. A number of national policies took into account the needs of persons with disabilities and older persons, and the Government invested in and empowered children, youth and women.

91. With regard to Goal 11, her Government was taking important steps to improve energy efficiency in residential buildings, prioritizing renovations in economically disadvantaged areas and for vulnerable groups. Those projects were decentralized to empower local communities. Furthermore, the Ministry of Environment and Water was developing a national air quality programme, and new initiatives on waste management focused on addressing waste accumulation, improving the use of resources and transitioning to more sustainable production and consumption methods.

92. Regarding Goal 12, the Government had prioritized transitioning to a circular economy in order to promote the effective use of resources and reduce the environmental impact. Taxes on electric vehicles had been significantly reduced, and the national trust eco-fund provided grants for electric vehicles and projects to improve energy efficiency. Given that every citizen had a responsibility to participate in sustainable production and consumption, the Government had outlined a plan to include environmental topics in primary and secondary school programmes as part of the recent education reform. With respect to Goal 7, Bulgaria had exceeded the national target to achieve 16 per cent renewable energy.

93. **Mr. Akbaruddin** (India), Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, said that the active engagement of a wide array of actors across different States and the high level of enthusiasm and interest among participants at the high-level political forum was reflective of the positive and voluntary nature of constructive multilateral engagement for the collective good. India was pushing ahead on each of the Sustainable Development Goals under review with strong political commitments and action by local and federal government agencies, as well as other stakeholders. His Government had launched an ambitious sanitation programme to improve hygiene and eliminate open defecation by October 2019. Under that programme, which would directly benefit 550 million Indians, 72 million household toilets had already been installed. In October 2018, India would host the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention, which would provide an opportunity to share and learn from global experiences.

94. India was increasing the share of renewable energy in its energy mix, with an emphasis on solar and wind power, including off-grid sources. The Government planned to produce 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022 and was partnering with other States to launch the International Solar Alliance, a treaty-based multilateral organization with over 60 member countries. By 2030, there would be 600 million Indians living in urban areas. His Government was therefore undertaking the world's largest affordable housing programme, building as many as 11 million homes before 2019, under a new urban infrastructure that would be green and resilient. India was one of 17 megadiverse countries in the world, with 8 per cent of the world's biodiversity, and extensive conservation efforts were underway to protect that heritage.

95. With regard to global partnerships, India had pledged $150 million for development and was partnering with the United Nations Office for South-

South Cooperation to administer the fund. His Government looked forward to engaging constructively in global efforts to achieve the Goals.

96. **Ms. Rubiales de Chamorro** (Nicaragua), Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations, said that the most pressing challenge in implementing the 2030 Agenda was having the means to do so. The high-level political forum provided a good opportunity to reaffirm commitments with regard to ODA, technology transfer, capacity-building and funding, which were vital to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Developed countries must therefore be encouraged to follow through on those commitments. The eradication of poverty continued to be the greatest global challenge. Given the lack of progress for the most disadvantaged and marginalized groups, the international community must continue to stress the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

97. Her Government had developed a successful model of unity, dialogue and consensus to reduce poverty and transform the country. Since 2007, absolute poverty had fallen from 48 per cent to 23 per cent, and extreme poverty had decreased from 17 per cent to 7.5 per cent. With regard to Goal 6, access to drinking water had increased from 43 per cent to 91 per cent, and the Government aimed to achieve 96 per cent by 2021. With regard to Goal 7, access to electricity had increased from 54 per cent to 94.7 per cent, and the share of renewable energy had increased from 25 per cent in 2007 to 56 per cent in 2015.

98. True and effective global partnership was essential for development. Any reform undertaken at the United Nations must seek to implement the 2030 Agenda and renew the commitments made in the various international conferences on sustainable development and financing. In addition, the international community must promote human development through social justice, peace, harmony and respect for territorial integrity and self-determination in order to ensure the survival of the human race and the rights of Mother Earth.

99. **Mr. Alemu** (Ethiopia), Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations, said that the Sustainable Development Goals were a collective commitment, and the lack of sufficient progress should therefore be of collective concern. A sense of urgency was needed to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which would require stronger political commitment, global partnership and multi-stakeholder collaboration at the national, regional and international levels. His delegation regretted that the ministerial declaration of the high-level political forum had not been adopted by consensus.

100. His Government continued to implement the 2030 Agenda and had fully integrated the Goals into its five-year national development plan. As a result, pro-poor economic growth had continued, and 70 per cent of the population had access to water, with a view to achieving full coverage by 2025. The Government had also invested heavily in renewable energy sources, thereby increasing the availability of affordable and sustainable energy, and continued to implement the climate-resilient green economy strategy, with a view to achieving a zero-carbon economy by 2025.

101. More effective global partnership and cooperation would remain indispensable to achieving the Goals in developing countries like Ethiopia. The international community must therefore enhance its commitments to make the Goals a reality for all, particularly the most vulnerable States and communities.

102. **Mr. Escalante Hasbún** (El Salvador), Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations, said that his country had presented its voluntary national review in 2017 and had made tangible progress in achieving a number of the Sustainable Development Goals, in line with its national capacities. With support from the United Nations, his Government had recently launched a tool to monitor progress on the Goals, as part of the national planning system. The next step towards gaining a better view of the progress achieved would be to incorporate information from local governments, the private sector, civil society and other sectors. Middle-income countries like El Salvador also required financing to implement the 2030 Agenda. In that connection, his Government had established a national strategy for development financing with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

103. With the establishment of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the international community had a historic opportunity to address related challenges, focusing on their intrinsic connection to the 2030 Agenda, which went beyond Goal 10.

104. With regard to the environment, El Salvador reiterated its commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. The international community must strengthen the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the United Nations Environment Assembly. El Salvador, and Central America as a whole, had been affected by recurring and increasingly intense hydrometeorological events, including El Niño, drought and flooding, which had caused humanitarian

emergencies. He therefore called on the participants of the forum to continue to give consideration to climate change.

105. Lastly, expressing concern about the increasing difficulty in achieving consensus on the ministerial declaration, his delegation called on Member States to maintain the constructive spirit and commitments made during the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and work towards its implementation at all levels.

106. **Mr. Saikal** (Afghanistan), Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations, said that his country had presented its voluntary national review in 2017. Since then, his Government had established a national executive committee on the Sustainable Development Goals, which provided an effective high-level coordination platform for direct and sustained engagement among government stakeholders, the private sector, academia, civil society organizations and international development partners. It also served as a platform for implementing the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020. Furthermore, coordination among stakeholders had significantly increased, and the Goals were steadily becoming a part of the national development discourse.

107. In Afghanistan, 45 per cent of the population was food insecure, and the latest drought had further compounded the situation. In response, the Government had launched a national food security and nutrition agenda in October 2017, had joined the global Scaling Up Nutrition Movement and had begun to collaborate with the South Asia Food and Nutrition Security Initiative.

108. Given the challenging security situation, the gains made in health, education and gender equality must be consolidated and sustained. The Government was fully committed to combating terrorism and violent extremism and bringing peace to its people. While its security forces tirelessly fought extremism, it kept open the possibility of dialogue and lasting peace.

109. Translating the Goals into national and local contexts and establishing measurable targets and indicators had proven challenging. It required new ways of working together, building partnerships and providing financing. Given the complexity of that task and its capacity constraints, Afghanistan depended on the assistance and cooperation of its international partners to successfully achieve the Goals.

110. **Mr. Alotaibi** (Kuwait), Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations, said that the various global challenges to development partnerships and innovative financing gave cause for concern. Poverty, widespread conflicts and human rights violations, compounded by environmental challenges stemming from desertification and climate change, hampered sustainable development and threatened international peace and security. The international community must urgently adopt a common position to address those challenges.

111. From the outset, international development cooperation had been a strategic priority for his Government, which would continue to devote all efforts and resources to addressing global challenges, helping other countries, especially those in special circumstances, and promoting international cooperation between various partners. Developed countries, for their part, should play a key role in ODA and capacity-building to meet the needs and aspirations of developing countries, in accordance with the commitments made during the adoption of the 2030 Agenda.

112. In order to preserve its national heritage, the Government had established an environmental programme to appropriately manage natural resources and use them in a balanced manner, with a view to protecting human and natural life. It had also adopted a number of evidenced-based strategies and laws to address the negative impacts of climate change.

113. With regard to implementing the 2030 Agenda, the Government had established a road map through 2032 and was formulating national development policies with the participation of stakeholders from all aspects of society. The 2030 Agenda could be implemented with the necessary political will, a belief in the importance of collaboration, and respect for decisions and commitments made. The United Nations could play a supervisory role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

114. **Mr. Ibragimov** (Uzbekistan), Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations, said that the United Nations country team in Uzbekistan had partnered with his Government to mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals and ensure a robust framework for adapting the targets to the national development plan. The Government had also implemented far-reaching reforms to further improve the well-being of its people and achieve the Goals, with a focus on the priority areas of the national development strategy for 2017–2021.

115. Since implementing measures in 2017, the Government had seen sustained economic growth of 5.5 per cent. In order to fuel growth, 12 free economic zones and 45 industrial zones had been established. An additional 50 industrial zones were being planned, and 161 major industrial facilities had been commissioned.

Job creation also remained a priority. In 2017, 336,000 new jobs had been created as a result of new industrial enterprises, the development of small business and private enterprises and the expansion of the service industry.

116. The Government was building affordable housing and offering subsidized mortgages. The construction of standardized multistorey housing units in urban areas had added over 3.5 million square metres of living space. Measures had also been taken to mitigate the environmental situation in the Aral Sea region, and the Minister of Finance had established a development fund to improve the water supply and living conditions in the area.

117. In an attempt to achieve deeper reform, 2018 had been designated the year of support for active entrepreneurship, innovative ideas and technologies. The initiative aimed to facilitate the integration of technology and scientific advancements in production processes. A Ministry of Innovative Development had also been established.

118. **Mr. Ke** (Cambodia), Permanent Representative-Designate of Cambodia to the United Nations, said that, given the scope and ambition of the 2030 Agenda, 2018 was an appropriate time to examine trends and evaluate progress. The Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals framework was comprised of 18 goals; the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and one additional goal to rid Cambodia of landmines and the remnants of war. The framework would be adopted to coincide with the new cycle of the national development plan for 2018–2023, providing a single, development-tracking mechanism.

119. Regarding Goal 6, while the baseline position on access to water was sound, progress was needed on the quality of water, wastewater treatment and sanitation. Furthermore, with respect to Goal 7, while Cambodia had a strong starting point on the coverage and supply of energy it faced challenges in greening the energy mix and sourcing clean fuels. As for Goal 11, the emerging phenomenon of urbanization presented major issues in the medium-term, particularly preventing flooding, ensuring effective waste management and delivering clean water and sewage treatment.

120. With regard to Goal 12, despite serious challenges such as greening production in industry and agriculture and improving consumption practices, the position on recycling presented a solid basis for rapid progress. Furthermore, while Cambodia had a strong base to meet targets related to biodiversity, natural water resources and forest cover under Goal 15, maintaining and rebuilding those natural habitats was a considerable burden which would be tackled through policy-based targets, spending and regulatory measures. There was also a strong foundation for the adoption of new technologies and integration within global trade networks under Goal 17.

121. Two decades of solid economic growth had helped Cambodia reduce poverty from 53.2 per cent in 2004 to 13.5 per cent in 2014. The country had received a United Nations award for halving hunger before the deadline set by the Millennium Development Goals. It aimed to move from a lower-middle-income to a higher-middle-income economy by 2030.

122. **Mr. Bin Momen** (Bangladesh), Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, said that his Government had integrated the Sustainable Development Goals into its national development plans and was coordinating implementation efforts at the highest political level, which demonstrated the extent of its political commitment.

123. Bangladesh had successfully completed a mapping exercise for the achievement of the Goals and targets and had also prepared a relevant national action plan. The Sustainable Development Goals Tracker had been developed as a data repository for monitoring implementation and facilitating the evaluation of progress through visualization schemes. The aim was to create a knowledge-based society through the use of information and communications technology.

124. One of the greatest challenges was mobilizing resources, with the annual implementation costs associated with the Goals in Bangladesh estimated at $66.32 billion. As there was also a considerable data gap for monitoring the Goals, a renewed focus had been placed on building the capacity of the national statistics office.

125. Further challenges included tackling inequality and creating decent jobs. Bangladesh would need to reform the educational and skill development sectors to maximize the job opportunities presented by new technologies and share the benefits of technological change.

126. The frequent and severe impacts of climate change continued to strain the agricultural sector and food security. It would be challenging to double agricultural productivity by 2030 as stipulated by target 2.3.

127. While Bangladesh had recently qualified for graduation from the category of a least developed country and had pledged to achieve middle-income country status by 2021, he urged development and trading partners to continue to provide their support.

128. **Ms. Yalçın** (Turkey), Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations, said that her Government's national development model was human-centred and focused on economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. Important achievements had been made regarding poverty eradication, job creation, improved income distribution, social protection and access to basic services and rights. Efforts for the empowerment of women had focused on removing economic and social barriers. The national development process also paid special attention to children, youth, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

129. Turkey had made significant steps towards reaching Sustainable Development Goal 6; access to water was almost at 100 per cent and water efficiency was being promoted across all sectors, including agriculture. Modern irrigation technologies and crops with low water consumption were being subsidized. In the context of Goal 7, as access to electricity was already at 100 per cent the focus had turned to increasing the ratio of renewables while enhancing efficiency and supply security. With regard to Goal 11, Turkey supported home ownership through affordable credits and developed urban transformation projects to regenerate weak structures and build safe settlements to reduce disaster risk. Under Goal 15, land degradation neutrality and soil organic carbon monitoring projects had been initiated. To protect the rich biodiversity, there was a focus on protecting and promoting species with significance for agriculture, forests, food and pharmaceuticals. A strengthened global partnership, as set out in Goal 17, was the key to achieving the other Goals through mobilizing the means of implementation.

130. In 2017, ODA in Turkey had risen to almost $8.2 billion, a 40.4 per cent increase over 2016. Indeed, the ratio of ODA a share of gross national income had increased sufficiently to meet the relevant targets under the Goals and the share allocated to humanitarian assistance made Turkey the largest donor in that category.

131. **Mr. Ma** Zhaoxu (China), Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations, said that, although steady progress had been made worldwide since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, countries still had much to do to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals on schedule. The international community should therefore remain committed to ensuring equitable, open, comprehensive and innovative development and should focus on helping developing countries to implement the 2030 Agenda. To that end, it was particularly important to improve global economic governance, to increase the voice and representation of developing countries and to pursue open development that benefited all. Efforts should be made to achieved coordinated economic, social and environmental development, and reform and innovation should be used to stimulate development, drive economic growth and foster new core competitiveness. His country opposed unilateralism and trade protectionism, which threatened economic growth, and was willing to work with all parties to safeguard free trade and the multilateral trading system.

132. Since opening up to the world economy, China had made significant contributions to global economic growth. Over the past five years, trade under the Belt and Road Initiative had exceeded 5 trillion dollars and accumulative investments had totalled more than 70 billion dollars, creating more than 200,000 jobs for local communities. Over the next 15 years, China was expected to import goods worth 24 trillion dollars and its foreign investments would reach 2 trillion dollars. China would uphold its philosophy of innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development with a focus on tackling unequal and inadequate development.

133. **Mr. Mohamed** (Maldives), Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations, said that quality, up-to-date and disaggregated data were important to not only better understand the progress that had been made to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, but also the challenges countries faced in their implementation. Strengthening the capacity of national institutions must be addressed to gather, manage and analyse data, especially for countries carrying out voluntary national reviews.

134. The theme of the high-level political forum was particularly relevant to small island States as it highlighted his country's vulnerabilities to climate change, natural disasters and external economic shocks. His Government had implemented numerous policies to transform vulnerability into resilience and to build capacity for long-term gains, achieving varying results. The voluntary national review process was very useful for his country in identifying the challenges, best practices and gaps in implementing the 2030 Agenda. The need for a more integrated approach to enhance policy coordination was recognized, including an integrated data system to improve information sharing across sectors and improved reporting and data analysis.

135. **Ms. Davies** (United Kingdom), Chief Medical Officer for England and Chief Medical Advisor to the Government, said that her country remained firmly committed to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals domestically and would continue to

provide support and strong leadership internationally to ensure that no one was left behind. For example, as persons with disabilities were known to have fewer opportunities and worse outcomes than persons without disabilities, the Global Disability Summit to be held shortly in London would highlight that largely neglected issue in the area of development and humanitarian aid and would call for much greater action and investment from global actors. Her Government's commitment to the Inclusive Data Charter also aimed to ensure that every person counted and would have a fair opportunity in life.

136. Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies included tackling environmental problems. Committed to meeting its climate ambitions, including under the Paris Agreement, the Government had recently announced a new funding package to boost global research and stop plastic waste from entering the oceans. It had also adopted the Commonwealth Blue Charter to support the sustainable development of oceans.

137. Looking ahead, her country intended to lead efforts to take global action on building resilience to climate change, collaborate to improve access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene, support the development of sustainable energy and fight illegal wildlife trade. It would also encourage all countries to push for an ambitious new strategic framework for biodiversity post-2020 in order to underpin the efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 15. Gender equality remained a key priority and, though progress had been made, global commitments on gender must be translated into to real change. To combat drug-resistant infections, her country would work to combat microbial resistance, which indirectly or directly put all the Goals at risk.

138. Governments alone could not deliver the Goals; partnership was essential, in particular with the private sector, to stimulate growth and help delivery.

139. **Mr. Adom** (Côte d'Ivoire), Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations, said that his Government had taken ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals through such measures as the implementation of a national multiparty consultative framework and the integration of the Goals in the 2016–2020 National Development Plan. However, the Government's aim of making Côte d'Ivoire an emerging country by 2020 depended on meeting a number of challenges, including with regard to access to drinking water, the use of renewable energies for environmental conservation, access to decent housing and the conservation of biodiversity. To that end, his Government had begun an ambitious water source diversification project to increase water production, reduce water shortages and autonomize the drinking water supply in the south of the country. A total of 142,182 subsidized drinking-water connections had been established between 2009 and 2017, and a further 450,000 such connections would be established over the next few years. Furthermore, the first large-scale photovoltaic power station would be established in Korhogo in the north of the country and his Government adopted a solar energy development strategy regarding to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Several other measures had been introduced, with the support of international bodies, to preserve and restore terrestrial ecosystems, manage forests sustainably and combat desertification.

140. **Mr. Mayong Onon** (Malaysia), Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations, said that his country remained committed to supporting and implementing the 2030 Agenda as it worked to become a high-income, developed country. The current five-year development plan for 2016–2020 mirrored the multidimensional nature of the Sustainable Development Goals and would serve as the overarching and guiding policy for sustainable development. Under the road map approved by the Malaysian Cabinet in September 2016, his Government had established a national Sustainable Development Goal Council and a National Steering Committee.

141. Under the multi-stakeholder, participatory government structure, national symposiums and forums were held to promote the participation of stakeholders in achieving the Goals. The Government had conducted studies on data readiness and gap analysis and had undertaken a mapping exercise to align the Goals with the national development plan, with the involvement of civil society organizations and the private sector. It was engaging with a number of stakeholders to increase awareness at the grass-roots level. Malaysia was willing to share its experiences with other developing countries and welcomed collaboration with international partners to ensure the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

142. **Mr. Al-Tememy** (Iraq), Secretary, Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations, said that his Government would continue to work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. However, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant had used violence against all groups of society, particularly women and children, undermining and destroying infrastructure and displacing a large number of people. Those circumstances had drained the Government's resources, hampering its ability to sustain liberated areas and affecting living standards in the middle and southern

parts of the country. As a result, poverty had increased in areas hosting displaced persons.

143. His Government was working to eliminate terrorism and had drafted a plan to reconstruct liberated areas, which promoted the use of technology and the participation of civil society. The plan focused on treating injuries and provided compensation for children and persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the economic and security situations made it difficult for people to find work. The Government was working to fulfil its obligations and had paid dearly in defence of Iraq and the world. The international community must therefore support Iraq in achieving flexible and sustainable cities and towns.

144. **Mr. Moncada** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations, said that the United Nations system would be facing significant challenges in the forthcoming years, particularly attacks against the basic principles of multilateralism and sovereignty over natural resources, as well as colonialism, war and unilateral economic measures, such as those imposed on his country in a constant endeavour to undermine its economic and political stability. Such measures had been rejected by Heads of State and Government with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and were contrary to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on Principles of Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States.

145. In order to build resilience, States and societies must adapt to, transform and recover from adverse impacts in a timely and efficient manner. In 2016, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had been one of the first countries to present its voluntary national review, in which it had indicated the progress made on integrating the 2030 Agenda into the national plan and the zero-poverty plan for 2019. The Government had continued its work, despite the current adverse situation.

146. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda required efforts on the part of all stakeholders, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was determined to work towards an inclusive and resilient agenda that strengthened the commitments of all to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development; balanced social, economic and environmental concerns; and restored the spirit of solidarity.

147. **Ms. Cordova Soria** (Plurinational State of Bolivia), Deputy Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations, said that, under President Evo Morales, her Government had prioritized eradicating poverty and reducing inequality and had adopted a development paradigm that benefited from indigenous knowledge and was in harmony with nature. In the past 12 years, per capita gross domestic product had tripled, and her country led the region in economic growth, with an average of 4 per cent per year. With regard to reducing inequality, in 2005, the richest 10 per cent of the population had earned 128 times the income of the poorest 10 per cent. In 2018, that gap had been reduced by nearly two thirds. Extreme poverty had also been reduced, from 38 per cent to less than 17 per cent.

148. Access to drinking water and basic sanitation was critical to reducing poverty and inequality, and water was a fundamental right for life under the Constitution. The Government had significantly increased related investments. As a result, 85.6 per cent of Bolivians had access to drinking water and the infant mortality rate had decreased by over 52 per cent, to 24 per thousand live births. Those achievements had only been possible because her Government had taken its national resources out of the hands of transnational corporations and given them back to the people, creating State-run companies to manage water, electricity, telecommunications and renewable and non-renewable energy sources.

149. While the Government had taken decisive action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and improve the standard of living for its citizens, it also noted that living in harmony, equilibrium and complementarity applied not only to human beings but also to Mother Earth and all living things. The only way to promote sustainable development and a fair balance between the economic, social and environmental needs of current and future generations was to promote policies that encouraged living in harmony with nature, to tackle the causes of poverty and inequality at the national and international levels, to transform the capitalistic model of development that exploited some for the benefit of others, to avoid excessive consumption and production, and to denounce the practice of prioritizing military expenditures over investments in development.

150. **Ms. Agladze** (Georgia), Deputy Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations, said that her country had been among the first to present its voluntary national review. At the national level, the Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Council oversaw the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in line with existing national strategies and action plans, and ensured effective communication and dialogue among public agencies. An electronic monitoring system had been adopted to distribute up-to-date information about the country's performance on the Goal targets. Since

2015, her Government had been reforming the policy planning system, establishing a solid methodological foundation for the review process and integrating the Goals into national policy planning.

151. Sustainable urban planning contributed significantly to health and well-being by promoting environmental benefits and economic growth, and its cross-cutting nature required concerted efforts. The Government prioritized equal access to water resources, quality drinking water for human health and the sustainable use of resources. In that connection, it was developing a legislative framework for the sustainable management of water resources. With regard to air quality, the Government was improving air quality standards to bring them in line with European standards, promoting green driving and sustainable public transport, introducing a new electronic air pollution reporting system and adopting measures to improve fuel quality under new national standards. The establishment of a modern waste management system was also among the key priorities. The Government had set ambitious targets to regularly collect 100 per cent of municipal waste. A new waste code and relevant secondary legislation provided regulations on collection, reuse, recycling and other waste recovery solutions. Furthermore, Georgia was moving toward the European model for the sustainable management of forest resources, and a forest code had already been drafted. Those targets were also given priority in terms of financing. Lastly, given the lack of data, there was a substantial need to upgrade national statistical research capacities.

152. **Mr. Ilnytskyi** (Ukraine), Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations, said that his country was struggling to build stability and security in the face of the ongoing foreign aggression and occupation of parts of its territory. Nevertheless, his Government remained fully committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda. An interministerial working group had been established to adapt the Sustainable Development Goal indicators to the national context, in partnership with the United Nations country team in Ukraine, and national consultations had been held with participants from government institutions, United Nations agencies, academia and civil society. The Government prioritized international cooperation and was working to fulfil its commitments to improve education, promote gender equality and ensure environmental sustainability.

153. Ukraine welcomed United Nations initiatives to eradicate global hunger, as his country well knew the price of that tragedy. In November 2018, the Government would mark a day of remembrance for the Holodomor victims, to honour the millions who had died during the famine orchestrated by the communist regime. Ukraine stood ready to assist in addressing food insecurity for the more than 850 million people in the world who were starving.

154. In 2016, the international community had completed the United Nations action plan on Chernobyl to 2016 and the Decade of Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Affected Regions. However, sustained effort was needed to continue to prioritize post-Chernobyl recovery in inter-agency and international agendas.

155. Sustainable development could not be achieved without sustainable peace and security. Constructive multi-stakeholder dialogue could facilitate the widest possible cooperation, thereby ensuring that emerging sustainable development challenges received appropriate consideration and were addressed in a mutually beneficial way.

156. **Mr. Kickert** (Austria), Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations, said that his Government fully supported the ambitious reform agenda of the Secretary-General and welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 72/279. Efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda must be accelerated in order to reach the common goals. According to the 2018 report entitled Global Responsibilities: Implementing the Goals, Austria ranked among the top 10 countries in terms of progress.

157. With regard to Goal 6, his Government reiterated its readiness to share its expertise in water governance and integrated water management. In addition to being a matter of life and death, water was a question of dignity and a human right. During the high-level political forum, Austria had hosted a side event focused on the nexus between water and forests. Concerning Goal 7, the Government had partnered with UNIDO and Sustainable Energy for All to establish the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres, with a view to assisting countries and regional organizations in overcoming barriers to the development of sustainable energy markets.

158. Space technologies could also contribute to nearly all the Goals. The "Space2030" agenda would act as a driver of sustainable development by promoting a global space partnership to assist in monitoring progress, establishing early warning systems, sustainably managing resources and addressing climate change. The Symposium on Space for the Sustainable Development Goals, organized in partnership with the Office for Outer Space Affairs, would take place in September 2018.

159. The international community would only be able to fulfil its shared commitments if the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was firmly based on the protection and promotion of human rights. Furthermore, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls were crucial to the realization of the 2030 Agenda.

160. **Mr. Kalsakau** (Vanuatu), Deputy Permanent Representative of Vanuatu to the United Nations, said that rural-urban migration, demographic shifts and climate change were transforming the region, and innovative solutions were necessary to address the complex, interconnected impacts of long-term development. For his country, climate change, particularly slow-onset events, posed the biggest threat to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Cyclone Pam, which had hit Vanuatu in March 2015, continued to be a stark reminder of the devastating consequences of unabated climate change: reversing development gains, reducing the quality of life, disrupting efforts to eradicate poverty and severely impeding future economic growth. Urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts was therefore essential to creating resilience for small island developing States and least developed countries.

161. Clean water was vital to reducing disease burden and improving health, well-being and productivity. While fresh water sources were fragile and limited, particularly in rural communities, the Government was working to ensure equitable access to clean water sources for all. It would therefore welcome assistance in deploying new and existing technologies and processes that could improve the condition and sustainability of water resources. The Government also sought to provide access to energy for 100 per cent of the population and achieve 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030.

162. Vanuatu would graduate from least developed country status in December 2020 and looked forward to enhanced international support to assist in its transition to a middle-income country, particularly in support of its efforts to achieve the Goals.

163. **The President**, speaking in his national capacity, said that accelerated action and collaborative partnerships between Governments and stakeholders were necessary to meet the persistent challenges to implementing the 2030 Agenda. Belgium had presented its voluntary national review in 2017, and government officials at the federal, regional and local levels continued to take concrete actions. The inclusion and participation of stakeholders and the private sector were crucial to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

164. A transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies was dependent upon the responsible management of natural resources. His Government was committed to improving air quality and conserving biodiversity, particularly through partnerships with landowners and investments in the Natura 2000 network of the European Union, and called for a robust international framework for biodiversity after 2020. The Government was also redoubling efforts to transition to a circular economy, focusing on ecological innovation, sustainable public procurement and the development of green and blue infrastructure. The forthcoming United Nations Environment Assembly would focus on innovative solutions to address environmental challenges and promote sustainable production and consumption. Information and communication technologies, connectivity and innovation could also be catalysts of sustainable change.

165. Given that climate change could exacerbate fragile situations and contribute to increased tension and conflicts, the international community must recognize the interdependence between peace and security, sustainable development and human rights.

166. **Ms. Rienning-Baek** (Denmark), speaking as a youth delegate, said that the European youth delegates had organized a side event at the high-level political forum focusing on potential solutions for future cities. With regard to Goal 11, city planning required a long-term co-creative process in which local stakeholders could address mobility issues with solutions that met their specific needs. Accountability was also essential to achieving progress. A number of Member States, including Denmark, needed to examine their production and consumption practices, under Goal 12. The principles of a circular economy were slowly being integrated into business models and personal lifestyles. Developed countries must urgently assume their responsibilities in that regard and reduce consumption. With regard to Goal 17, specifically intergenerational partnerships, she noted that only 10 European countries had invited youth delegates to participate in the high-level political forum.

167. Youth figured prominently in the Danish development strategy, as both a cross-cutting theme and a stand-alone issue. The Government sought to engage young people in a meaningful way, as partners and leaders rather than simply beneficiaries. It had commissioned a review of youth-led development engagements, consisting of a review team, a youth advisory panel and an online survey for young people. While Denmark had a solid base of expertise, there were also areas where it could improve. For example, as a result of the review process, it had been recommended

that young people should be included in the voluntary national review process.

168. Youth participation remained a privilege rather than a right. Her delegation appealed to Member States to encourage diverse, meaningful inclusion and participation in preparing their voluntary national reviews for 2019, whether from young people; members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities; indigenous peoples; persons with disabilities or other stakeholders. She urged Member States to recognize youth as key stakeholders and partners in the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.